

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A secure computer resource access system, comprising:

a fingerprint reading device for reading fingerprints of human users;

a store of fingerprint data corresponding to a plurality of different users;

an authorization system coupled to said reading device and configured to access said store and to associate an authorization level with a user based on the user's fingerprint;

an access mechanism that defines a plurality of different authorization levels associated with a plurality of file resources, said access mechanism including at least one fingerprint matching module having a first secure interface to said fingerprint device and at least one authorization module having a second secure interface to said fingerprint matching module and a third secure interface to at least one resource access module;

said access mechanism being responsive to said authorization system to control how a user can interact with said computer resource based on said associated authorization level; and

a decryption service module in data communication with each of the fingerprint matching module, the authorization module and the resource access module and operable to provide decryption services thereto.

2. (original) The access system of claim 1 wherein said fingerprint reading device is integral with a pointing device of a computer system.

3. (original) The access system of claim 1 wherein said fingerprint reading device is integral with a keyboard device of a computer system.

4. (original) The access system of claim 1 wherein said store of fingerprint data employs a data structure for storing said fingerprint data in an encrypted format.

5. (original) The access system of claim 4 wherein said encrypted format is protected by a software key.

6. (original) The access system of claim 1 wherein said authorization system communicates with said store of fingerprint data across an encrypted channel.

7. (original) The access system of claim 1 wherein said authorization system communicates with said store of fingerprint data across a computer network.

8. (original) The access system of claim 1 wherein said access mechanism controls file access within a computer system.

9. (original) The access system of claim 1 wherein said access mechanism controls network access within a computer system.

10. (original) The access system of claim 1 wherein said access mechanism controls record access within a computer system.

11. (original) The access system of claim 1 wherein said access mechanism controls resource access within a computer system.

12. (original) The access system of claim 1 wherein said access mechanism controls feature access within a computer system.

13. – 23. cancelled

24. (previously presented) The access system of claim 1 wherein each one of said first secure interface, said second secure interface and said third secure interface comprising:

a encryption sub-module encrypting outgoing information from a given secure interface;

a decryption sub-module decrypting incoming information received by said given secure interface.